



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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July 3, 2007

WEST VIRGINIA BULLETIN NO: WV300-7-21

SUBJECT: LTP -EQIP Emergency Livestock Water Revised Ranking Criteria

Purpose: To issue a revised ranking criteria for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Emergency Livestock Water Initiative

Expiration Date: This bulletin expires September 30, 2007

An analysis of the early ranking scores for the EQIP emergency livestock water applications show several tie scores. In light of this, a few changes have been made to the ranking questions and the discussion points for the local issues questions.

The revised ranking tool for this application pool is available in ProTracts. Any applications which have previously been ranked will need to be re-ranked however, an additional field visit should not be required. A summary of the ranking tool is attached. An explanation of each of the local issue questions is also attached.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Herbert Andrick, ASTC-Programs at 304-284-7560.

/s/

KEVIN WICKEY
State Conservationist

Attachments

DIST: A,F



Attachment 1 - Natural Resources Conservation Service**Application Ranking Summary****Emergency Livestock Water**

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: Emergency Livestock Water		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

National Priorities Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in considerable reductions of non-point source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, excess salinity in impaired watersheds consistent with TMDL's where available as well as the reduction of groundwater contamination or point source such as contamination from confined animal feeding operations?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the conservation of a considerable amount of ground or surface water resources?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction of emissions, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors and depleters that contribute to air quality impairment violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable levels on agricultural land?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in a considerable increase in the promotion of at-risk species habitat conservation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

State Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Is the land unit specified in this application covered under an existing conservation plan?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Has the applicant completed, without cancellation or termination except for NRCS reasons, all Farm Bill program contracts held prior to this application?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Is the applicant completing contract items as scheduled in all existing contracts held by the applicant? Answer yes if this the first contract for the applicant.	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Are grazing livestock present on the operating unit?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
2. Is there inadequate water for livestock due to drought conditions?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
3. Is the producer willing to complete the contract within 60 days of contract obligation?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
4. Does the producer have a grazing management plan and is unable to implement it due to drought conditions?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
5. Is the grazing unit located in a county identified in Governor Manchin's emergency drought declaration?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>
6. Is this the first contract between the applicant and NRCS for a cost share program?	Yes <input type="radio"/> or No <input type="radio"/>

Land Use:

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score

Efficiency:
Local Issues:
State Issues:

National Issues:

Final Ranking Score:

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

NRCS Representative:

Applicant Signature Required for Contract Development:

Signature Date:

Signature Date:

ATTACHMENT 2

Discussion points of Local Issues Questions

Question 1. Are grazing livestock present on the operating unit?

The intent of this question is to give priority to those applicants who have not had to liquidate their livestock to either a lack of feed or forage.

Horses, mules and donkeys are considered grazing livestock for this program.

The eligible livestock do not have to be in a grazing situation to qualify.

Question 2. Is there inadequate water for livestock due to drought conditions?

Is the applicant currently hauling water, either from a source on the operating unit or from a source located off of the operating unit, to provide the basic water needs of his or her livestock?

Has the applicant had to cut a fence or allow livestock access to a riparian area to provide water to livestock?

Is the applicant overgrazing areas because of reduced water availability due to drought conditions?

Question 3. Is the producer willing to complete the contract within 60 days of contract obligation?

This an emergency response to an emergency issue, if the producer can wait until fall, or next year, to implement the contract, he or she is probably not in dire need of assistance at this time.

Question 4. Does the producer have a grazing management plan and is unable to implement it due to drought conditions?

This does not have to be a plan developed by NRCS, the Cooperative Extension Service has specialists who can and are working with producers to develop grazing management plans. In addition, some producers have developed quite successful grazing systems on their own.

What to look for: Does the applicant have records or appear to attempt to balance the number of livestock to the available forage; Is there a record keeping system used to record dates, livestock numbers, and weights; Is there an attempt to rotate or manage the livestock in the grazing system? Due to drought conditions, is the producer unable to implement the grazing plan?

Question 5. Is the grazing unit located in a county identified in Governor Manchin's emergency drought declaration?

Governor Manchin announced a state of emergency due to the drought in selected counties in West Virginia on June 29, 2007. Those counties named in the emergency declaration or added later will be given priority for funding .Your local FSA office will have a list of declared drought counties.

Question 6. Is this the first contract between the applicant and NRCS for a cost share program?